

DISTRUST OF THE MARSHALS.

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faces, and fought his last desperate campaigns with younger men who still had fortunes to win, leaving "Berthier to hunt at Grosbois," and the other Marshals to enjoy their well-deserved rest in their splendid hotels at Paris.

Besides, in 1814 the Marshals, perhaps partly necessarily, had taken—still more, had been believed by the army to have taken, a principal part in forcing the abdication of Napoleon ; and the officers of the junior ranks, with the old privates, the lion-hearted men whose fidelity never swerved, and who thought themselves well rewarded for a life passed in his service if they caught but a glance of the Emperor as he swept over the field where they lay with just enough life for one last cry of "Vive l'Empereur!" such men, forming a large part of the army, looked with great distrust on the Marshals who had taken rank, honor, and wealth from the Emperor, and who had then shrunk from the side of the beaten Napoleon, or forced the pen into his unwilling hands, in their panic at the idea of losing the rewards they had received from him.

Thus, while Napoleon himself had good reason for meeting his Marshals with but little of his former trust, the mass of the army were full of suspicion even of those who were fighting under the tri-color, this feeling going so far that one private, on the very field of Ligny, ran out to warn the Emperor that Soult was betraying him. On the other side the Marshals themselves had but too great remembrance of the warmth, real or affected, with which they had received the Bourbons; and even Ney, cheerfully venturing his life a thousand times at "Vyaterloo, did so without the confidence which had been in his breast when he alone formed the rearguard of the army on the retreat from Moscow. Thus we have now but a sorry tale to tell, — a mean and dreary ending to a glorious history.

For our present purpose we may divide the Marshals into three groups. Those absent or dead, those who remained true to the Bourbons, and those who, more or less reluctantly, joined Napoleon.¹

¹ For an interesting sketch of some of the Marshals see *Temple Bar*, vol. Ixviii., No. 273, 1883, p. 495.